

Like his father, Eric is a man of his word, a rare commodity today, and a devoted servant of the people whom I represent, as well as this great Nation. As with all great champions, the torch must eventually be passed. I can assure Eric's father, my friend, that his torch shall be strongly, honorably and steadfastly carried forward into the future by Eric and his family.

There is a time in each man's life when the sun must set, and when his Creator calls, once again, Wayne has answered that final call, with great distinction, honor, and love as his foundation.

May God bless you, Wayne Clair Dell, and this great Nation which you have helped create.

Semper Fi.

Always faithful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, February 22, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4425—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the Martin G. "Marty" Mahar Post Office, and "yea" on H.R. 4238—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 930 39th Avenue in Greeley, Colorado, as the W.D. Farr Post Office Building.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on February 22, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 49 and "yea" on rollcall 50.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN KILDEE'S 20,000TH VOTE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to Congressman DALE KILDEE for his honorable service to the State of Michigan over the last 33 years. It has been a privilege to serve with him for half of that time.

Congressman KILDEE'S diligence and commitment to voting is unrivaled, having missed only 27 votes in his entire career.

His consecutive vote streak of 8,141 votes is admirable, not only for its unprecedented nature, but because it shows his commitment to taking a stand on the issues.

Of the votes that Congressman KILDEE has cast, many have been in support of important

education reforms and our auto and manufacturing industries. I have enjoyed working with him on the Education and Labor Committee and, as a fellow educator, I have always appreciated his approach and commitment to improving our nation's schools.

On a personal note, Congressman KILDEE has been a great friend and a good example to me and every Member of Congress.

The State of Michigan has been well represented by Congressman KILDEE, and I hope he will be able to cast another 20,000 votes!

IN MEMORY OF SGT. JEREMY MCQUEARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a fallen American hero, Marine Sergeant Jeremy McQueary of Columbus, Indiana.

Sgt. McQueary served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he gave his life in service to a grateful nation on Thursday, February 18th while serving with the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. McQueary enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in January 2002 after graduating from Columbus East High School. According to his mother, Jeremy always had an interest in becoming a Marine and continuing the proud tradition of service in his family by donning the uniform of our nation.

Though Sgt. McQueary did not speak often of his experiences overseas, his dedication and bravery were quite evident by his actions and decorations. In June of 2008, he survived a roadside bombing attack and volunteered to continue serving in Iraq. His awards include a Combat Action Ribbon and Purple Heart, among others.

Sgt. McQueary was a compassionate man who cared especially for children. A father himself, Sgt. McQueary expressed a desire to work with children in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our condolences go out to Jeremy's wife Rae and young son Hadley, as well as his mother and stepfather, Deborah and David Kleinschmidt, and sister Rebecca.

We will never be able to pay the debt of honor owed to Sergeant Jeremy McQueary and his family. Heroes like him are our nation's most cherished citizens without whom freedom and democracy would not be possible. His passing is a profound loss for his family, this community and this nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,403,027,179,655.21.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,764,601,433,361.41 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$972,344,066.53 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING DR. JOHN R. GRAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John R. Gray, Deputy Commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, on his commendable career upon his retirement after thirty-two years of distinguished service.

Dr. Gray joined Letterkenny Army Depot in 1985 and founded a branch for the U.S. Army Materiel Command Management Engineering Activity. Since 1988, he has held a number of positions at the depot working his way up to Deputy Commander. After two years of service as the Supervisory Budget Analyst with the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Army Depot appointed Dr. Gray as Deputy Commander at Letterkenny. As the senior civilian at the depot, Dr. Gray managed a \$500 million operation and an 18,000 acre installation, that employs many of my constituents in Franklin County.

Deputy Commander Gray began his federal career in 1978 in Rock Island, Illinois, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his time there, he was an instructor with the Army Management Engineering College providing training to students on financial management and productivity measurement. In addition, Dr. Gray performed cost analyses on hydropower, flood control, and water supply projects.

Dr. Gray graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 and Master of Business Administration in 1978. Twenty years later, he earned his Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California where he later received his Doctorate in Public Administration. In 1990, Dr. Gray became a graduate of the Secretary of Defense Executive Leadership Development program.

Dr. John Gray's service is a brilliant example of how dedication to personal and professional development in life can lead to success. He has been a leader throughout his entire career and a valuable resource to all whom have had the pleasure of knowing him. He is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and service to our community and our nation. I wish Dr. Gray and his family continued success and my best wishes upon his retirement.

HONORING WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY TEAM ON WINNING: IOME CHALLENGE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student team at Western